

SENATE No. 280

To accompany the petition of the Massachusetts Civic League, Inc., by Livingston Hall and another, for the appointment of a special commission (including members of the General Court) to investigate the public personnel laws, policies and practices in the Commonwealth. Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Seven.

Resolve providing for an Investigation by a Special Unpaid Commission of the Public Personnel Laws, Policies and Practices in the Commonwealth.

1 *Resolved*, That a special commission is hereby
2 established to consist of one member of the senate
3 to be designated by the president thereof and
4 two members of the house of representatives to
5 be appointed by the speaker thereof and four
6 persons not members of the general court to be
7 appointed by the governor. The commission
8 shall choose its chairman and shall be known as
9 the commission on public personnel. It shall be
10 the duty of the commission to investigate and
11 consider the present personnel systems, laws,
12 regulations and practices existing in the state,
13 county and local governments in the common-
14 wealth, exclusive of members of the judiciary and
15 of the military forces and exclusive of holders of

16 state elective offices. The commission shall rec-
17 ommend such changes therein as may be desirable
18 to establish well-developed career services based
19 on merit in said state, county and local govern-
20 ments. Without limiting the scope of its investi-
21 gation, the commission is specifically directed to
22 consider the following matters:

23 The extension of civil service status upwards
24 so as to include all non-policy making positions;
25 the classification of the public service; the co-
26 ordination of entrance requirements with the
27 educational system of the state; the standard-
28 ization of remuneration; retirement; pensions;
29 state-wide eligible lists; suspension and removals;
30 sick leaves; vacations; integration of the state
31 personnel agencies; extension of civil service
32 status to counties and towns.

33 The commission shall report its findings with
34 such recommendations and drafts and such
35 legislation as it may deem expedient to the next
36 annual session of the general court by filing the
37 same with the clerk of the house of represent-
38 atives on or before the first Wednesday in De-
39 cember nineteen hundred and thirty-eight. Upon
40 the filing of such report, the existence of the
41 commission shall terminate. The commission
42 may file an interim report with such recom-
43 mendations and drafts of legislation as it then
44 deems desirable on the first Wednesday of
45 December of the present year.

46 The commission shall be provided with quar-
47 ters in the state house, may hold hearings therein

48 and elsewhere, may require by summons the
49 attendance and testimony of witnesses, may ad-
50 minister oaths, may require the production of
51 books and papers pertaining to any matter under
52 investigation, and may expend for the employ-
53 ment of a secretary, experts, and other assistance,
54 such sums not exceeding in the aggregate of
55 twenty-five thousand dollars as may hereafter be
56 appropriated therefor.

57 The commission may avail itself of the services
58 of the commission on administration and finance,
59 the division of civil service, or of any state de-
60 partment, of the county personnel board, and of
61 the several officers and departments of the
62 counties, cities and towns of the commonwealth
63 for the purposes of its investigation.

